

II. ELIGIBLE ENTITIES

All eligible entities shall be domestic entities, i.e., those owned, operated, and located within one or more of the 50 United States and the District of Columbia only. Entities located within U. S. territories are not eligible.

Under this program, eligible entities must apply for FMPP funds on behalf of direct marketing operations that include two or more farmers/farm vendors who produce and sell their own products through a common distribution channel. AMS will award grants to and oversee the implementation of projects that encourage the development, promotion, and expansion of direct marketing of agricultural commodities from farmers to consumers.

Proposals should support agricultural marketing enterprises where farmers or vendors sell their own products directly to consumers, and where the sales of these farm products represent the core business of the entity.

Eligible entities are:

- A. Agricultural Cooperative** – A group- or member-owned entity or business that provides, offers, or sells agricultural products or services for the mutual benefit of the members thereof.
- B. Local Government** - Local government means any unit of local government within a State, including a county, borough, municipality, city, town, township, parish, local public authority, special district, school district, intrastate district, council of governments, and any other instrumentality of local government.
- C. Nonprofit Corporation** – Any organization or institution, including nonprofits with 501(c)(3) IRS status and accredited institutions of higher education, no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.
- D. Public Benefit Corporation** – A corporation organized to construct or operate a public improvement, the profits from which inure to the benefit of a State(s) or to the people thereof.
- E. Economic Development Corporation** – An organization whose mission is the improvement, maintenance, development and/or marketing or promotion of a specific geographic area.
- F. Regional Farmers' Market Authority** - An entity that establishes and enforces region, State, or county policies and jurisdiction over regional, State, or county farmers markets.

G. Tribal Government - A governing body or a governmental agency of any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community (including any Native village as defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, 85 Stat. 688 (43 U.S.C. § 1602)) certified by the Secretary of the Interior as eligible for the special programs and services provided through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.